GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000
SICK TEA ESTATE IN ASSAM .
NEPAL CHANDRA DAS

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the most deplorable condition of Pathini Tea Estate, a Government of India Undertaking in the District of Karimganj in Assam;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the condition of the garden;

(c) whether the Government have decided to sell out the garden to some private party;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(e) whether the TTCI has failed to pay off the workers` bonus, gratuity and wages for which the workers of the garden have been suffering and a few of them have already suffered starvation deaths;

(f) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of workers; and (g) the time by which the Government propose to sell out this garden to private party?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)
(a) to (g): Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, which manages the administration of five tea gardens in the States of West Bengal and Assam including Pathini Tea Estate.The company is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.1997. TTCI managementfiled a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. TTCI is in the condition of ill economic health and it is not possible for the company to generate funds for the revival of its gardens.